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February 25, 2014

Judith Enck
Regional Administrator
United States EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway
New York NY 10007-4575

Re: EPA must release the proposed plan and focused feasibility study for the lower 8 miles of the Passaic River immediately.

Dear Ms. Enck,

I appreciate the many efforts you have made in your service as regional administrator. One of the greatest outstanding issues is the clean up plan for the lower 8 miles of the Passaic River.

New Jerseyans have lived with the Passaic River pollution too long; the shameful actions of the polluters are well known, and the people who live along that river in Elizabeth, Bayonne, Newark, Jersey City, Harrison, Kearny, Belleville, North Arlington, Lyndhurst and Nutley deserve to have this matter settled at the absolute soonest date.

The amount of time that EPA has studied this issue without resolving it reflects poorly on the Agency and on the entire Superfund program. Because of the Passaic River Superfund delays, when I advocate for national priorities listing of other contaminated sites, my constituents understandably look at federal listing as an impediment to progress rather than impetus for progress. I have always thought this prejudice against Superfund to be misguided, but when EPA decides to re-reconsider the remedy, it adds fuel to that fire, it sends me out on a limb, and it makes the EPA look feckless. Please release the proposed plan and the focused feasibility study and release it now.

And please further know that a plan that leaves the dioxin on site, or buries it in Newark Bay, will be completed over my cold dead body.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Sheehan
Hackensack Riverkeeper